

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 2-7, 13 and 15-24 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 4, 5, 7, 13 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that all of these claims are in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, Applicant submits that each of the limitations recited in these claims has a sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 2-3, 7, 13, 15-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Mattias (EP '707). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of the claimed invention is not found in Mattias. For example, Mattias fails to disclose "said interface ascertaining an access network connection route attribute from said access network; [and] said interface checking that said access network connection

route attribute is one of one or more valid access network connection route attributes associated with said connection service,” as required by independent claim 13 and its dependents. Independent claim 19 and its dependents require similar features.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention therefore relate to an authorization taking place on the basis of an access network connection route attribute that is ascertained from the access network. In one exemplary embodiment, for example, authorization takes place on the basis of the telephone number called by the terminal (see, e.g., dependent claims 18 and 20 which depend from claims 13 and 19, respectively). The terminal can thus be connected to the data network and authorized simply by calling a valid connection service telephone number without the need to have a further attribute (e.g., user name and/or password) checked.

Mattias discloses an access check/control server checking the authorization of a user on behalf of a modem pool or interface pool. However, the nature of the authorization check is not described at all. Accordingly, Mattias fails to disclose ascertaining an access network connection route attribute from the access network and checking this access network connection route attribute as required by independent claims 13 and 19. More specifically, Mattias certainly does not disclose the ascertaining or checking of a “called interface telephone number” as

further required by dependent claims 18 and 20. A called interface telephone number does not appear to be mentioned in Mattias at all.

• Pages 4-5 of the Office Action apparently allege that col. 2, lines 32-34 and
col. 2, lines 50-51 disclose “ascertaining an access network connection route attribute from said access network.” These portions of Mattias are reproduced below:

“equipment which allows a user to connect himself/herself from the telecommunication network to the TCP/IP-network. (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol is an international standard).” (Col. 2, lines 32-34)

“This filter allows the calling user initially access only to the server where the access check takes place. This can for instance be a World Wide Web-server.” (Col. 2, lines 49-51).

None of these portions of Mattias disclose ascertaining an access network connection route attribute such as, for example, a called interface telephone number. Accordingly, no portion of Mattias further discloses checking the access network connection route attribute as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 2-3, 7, 13, 15-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Mattias be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Mattias in view of Yzhak (EP ‘068). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action apparently alleges that col. 9, lines 15-25 of Yzhak discloses an interface checking that a terminal telephone number is not one or more invalid telephone numbers, and in the event that the terminal telephone number is one or more of the invalid telephone numbers, the interface denies a connection between the terminal and data network. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. First, col. 9, lines 15-25 do not disclose “one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers.” Second, col. 9, lines 20-25, describe the user being denied access if the telephone number provided by him/her and a telephone number obtained from a telephone company do not match, whereas claims 6 and 17 require that access is denied in the event that there is a match between the terminal telephone number and one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers.

Yzhak therefore fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Mattias. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4-6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Mattias in view of Yzhak be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 21-24 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New claim 21 requires, *inter alia*, “sending a message from the network access system to the authentication system, the message containing the called telephone number but not a password uniquely identifying the terminal or user of the terminal.” New claim 23 requires, *inter alia*, “ascertaining a telephone

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number of a call placed by the terminal to connect to the network access system,
and sending a message containing the called telephone number but not a password

uniquely identifying the terminal or user of the terminal.” These features are
supported by, for example, page 7, line 25 to page 9, line 6 of the specification.

Applicant submits that these new claims are allowable.

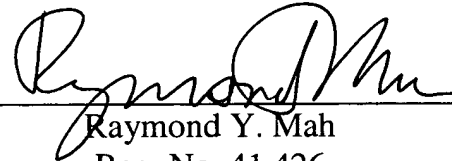
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance
and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions
or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the
Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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